

REMARKS

The present amendment is in response to the Office Action dated February 24, 2005. Claims 1-36 are now present in this case. Claim 8 has been amended to correct a minor typographical error.

The applicants wish to note that the Office Action dated October 4, 2004 lists six references that were made of record but not relied on. (See Office Action, page 3.) However, one reference listed on page 3, Dotts et al., is inadvertently listed on accompanying form PTO-892 as Lovelace et al. The applicants respectfully request a correction of the Notice of References Cited (form PTO-892) so that U.S. Patent No. 4,338,368 is correctly named Dotts et al.

The applicants wish to express their appreciation to the Examiner for his indication that claims 15, 17-21, and 28-35 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. However, as discussed below, all claims are believed allowable in their current form.

Claims 1-14, 16, 22-27, and 36 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by a document entitled K-1 Vehicle TA-10 Flight Experiment Design and Requirements Document ("K-1"). In a previous response, the applicants indicated that the K-1 document was inadvertently listed in an information disclosure statement, but does not qualify as prior art because it was not published.

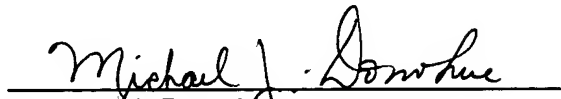
As discussed with the Examiner on April 20, 2005, the K-1 reference should not be considered prior art. The applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejection and the allowance of all claims.

• If questions remain regarding this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (206) 628-7640.

Respectfully submitted,

George E. Mueller et al.

Davis Wright Tremaine LLP

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Michael J. Donohue", is written over a horizontal line.

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